

In Step on Channel 2

6:30 a.m. In Step
 8 a.m. In Step
 Noon In Step
 6 p.m. In Step
 10 p.m. In Step

Fort Riley Community



August 1, 2003

America's Warfighting Center

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Hitting the books

Post library offers variety of resources

By Ryan D. Wood
 Staff Writer

Curling up by the fire with a good book is some people's idea of the ultimate day off. Fort Riley may not be able to provide the fire, but good books and more can be found at the post library, building 5306, just behind Fort Riley National Bank. The post library is home to over 21,000 different books and multi-media resources available for check out to anyone with a military identification card, said Arlette Conrad, lead librarian. Family memberships can be set up allowing anyone in a service-member's immediate family to rent up to 20 different items.

The library currently stocks fiction and non-fiction best sellers. They also have a military collection, educational and recreational books and videos, audio books, current newspapers and magazines and even a microfiche reader. The library also houses a faith and family collection. Over the past year, over 30,000 items have been checked out, said Conrad.

Two computers are also available for free Internet access. Both terminals offer Word, Excel, Power Point and other programs.

There is also a selection of databases available through the library's computers.

"We have databases through

the Army Library Program, and we also get some databases from the Kansas Library Program. You can get many full text articles for academic research. Many soldiers here are in school, and they don't have to drive all the way to Manhattan to get those resources," said Conrad. "They



can even access the resources from their homes. We can open an account for them here, and they can get to those databases." "Databases are expensive, but somebody out there is paying for them to be used, so it's important that people are aware of the resources that we have," Conrad said.

In addition to the media offerings, the library also sponsors many reading events designed for children. On July 19, a party was held to celebrate the end of the Summer Reading Program and to reward children for completing it. During the seven-week program, children from preschool to third grade were tasked

with reading a book a week, based on their age and ability level. All ages are welcome to attend these programs, but the programs are designed for children in a particular age group, Conrad said.

Subject areas during the summer program ranged from animals and science to history and art. After completing each book, children were asked to write something about the books they read or draw pictures to share with the other readers. Throughout the summer children earned points toward prizes, which were handed out during the final party.

The Fall Reading Program will start in September, with more information on final dates and activities to be announced after the school year has begun.

"The fall program is less formal than the summer reading program," said Conrad. "For the fall program, we try to do arts and crafts and poetry and other activities to interest the children."

Saturday story time is offered year-round, with activities changing on a weekly basis.

The library is open Tuesday - Saturday, 1 - 8 p.m. and Sunday, 1 p.m. - 6 p.m. The library is closed on Mondays. Books and audio materials can be checked out for 30 days and videos are available for 7 days.

For more information on the library or their program offerings, call 239-5306.



Victoria Beveridge finds a quiet place in the Fort Riley Library to settle down with a book. The post library has a wide selection of children's books available.

Variety of animals roam wild at Topeka Zoo

By Justin Vinje
 129th MPAD

Lions, gorillas, giraffes and elephants are roaming wild in the state capital. Of course, they're not going very far, but they're capturing people's attention.

The Topeka Zoo is home to animals from around the world, and it's growing all the time, according to Michael Coker, zoo director.

One new development in the works is the orangutan habitat, looking like a playground for overgrown children. The habitat, which Coker said is modeled after Camp Leakey in Borneo, combines climbing trees, platforms, ropes and other things for the primates to swing from or climb to.

"It's a great opportunity for (the orangutans)," Coker said. But, he said, it needs to be sturdily built, as the orangutans are "notorious for taking things apart."

According to Coker, this and other perks thrown in for the zoo's residents are called enrichment, which can be anything from toys

for the animals to play with to new living areas. Coker said a number of the animals, such as the lions and gorillas, could choose whether or not they wanted to be in or outdoors simply by going to those sections of their enclosures.

The Lions Pride area of the zoo has been made into an adventure for zoo guests, Coker said.

"It's a winding path, and then suddenly — there are the lions," Coker said.

The lions' habitat incorporates many landscape features, such as trees, rocks and grass — all under the open sky. There is even a kopje, pronounced kav-pee, a rocky outcropping that provides shade and water for the lions inside their habitat. The opening to the kopje on the outside allows humans to walk in and gaze at the animals through glass walls.

Beyond the lions' den are Asian elephants, fanning themselves cool with large earflaps. Giraffes forage the tree branches in a pen a bit farther along the road.

The path eventually leads to a tropical rain forest exhibit.

"It's really exotic," Coker said. "There are animals all around you, practically bumping into

you."

The rain forest exhibit is a dome-shaped structure with a sealed roof. Birds, of all manner and description, flap and strut about, while an anteater roots in the dirt for food. High above everything, upside down in a tree, sleeps an Indian fruit bat.

Overall, Coker said he is pleased with the development of the zoo and he thinks visitors would be happy with the direction it is taking.

"Northeast Kansas is our

neighborhood," Coker said, adding that surveys held by the zoo showed that people wanted more animals. "Our new exhibit will bring tigers," Coker said.

To get to the Topeka Zoo, take I-70 east to the Gage Blvd. Exit, head south on Gage to 6th Street (the first stoplight) and take a right. The zoo has free parking and admission is \$4.50 for adults 13 - 64, \$3 for children 3 - 12 and \$3.50 for seniors.



Lions, gorillas, giraffes and elephants roam wild at the Topeka Zoo. The zoo is open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Save your skin: More damage caused by UV rays early in life

By Ryan D. Wood
 Staff Writer

Currently, one in five Americans will develop skin cancer according to the National Safety Council's Environmental Health Center. One of the biggest causes of this disease is overexposure to the sun's ultraviolet or UV rays. More than just preventing painful sunburn, sun safety can now be a matter of life and death.

In a safety alert distributed by Lt. Gen. Thomas F. Metz, commanding general, III Corps, Fort Hood, Texas, it states, "Soldiers are being treated for sunburn at an alarming rate. Some had second-degree burns that require long-term health care follow-up and may result in medical complications. Episodes of severe sunburn and sun exposure have been associated with skin cancer, such as malignant melanoma. These injuries are painful and could be fatal and result in unnecessary lost time from duty. This type of injury could also result in a 'not in the line of duty' determination."

The following facts and precautions were compiled by the Fort Polk Safety Office to help in the prevention of sun related injuries. By following these tips and learning more about the sun and its effects, soldiers and their families can be safer and avert the pain of sunburn or worse.

- Approximately 1.3 million cases of skin cancer are diagnosed each year in the United States.
- Eighty percent of lifetime sun exposure occurs before the age of 18.

- Just one bad, blistering sunburn during childhood can double the risk of skin cancer later in life.

- Research indicates that regular use of sunscreen, 15 SPF or higher, during the first 18 years of life can reduce the incidence of some types of skin cancer by up to 78 percent.

- Remember to reapply the sunscreen when outdoors, even on cloudy days.

- Be sure to use enough sunscreen to provide complete coverage. Remember earlobes, neck and lips.

- If you or your child's hair is thin, apply sunscreen to the scalp as well.

- Reapply sunscreen more frequently after prolonged swimming, excessive perspiration, vigorous activity or toweling.

- Be careful near reflective surfaces (damaging UV rays bounce off sand, snow, concrete and water).

- Be aware that the sun's rays are strongest between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

- Wear a hat and protective clothing. Don't forget sunglasses.

- Always read and follow label directions.

- Infants under six months should be kept out of direct sun and covered by protective clothing.

- When you and your baby are outside during the day, try to stay in shady areas.

- Your child should be protected with a hat and lightweight clothing made of light-colored, tightly woven fabric that keeps the sun out.

- Make sure your sunscreen provides protection from both UVA and UVB rays (the rays that cause skin damage).



Ornate box turtles can be seen in the tropical rain forest exhibit at the Topeka Zoo.

129th MPAD/Vinje

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WIC offers food, information

By Ryan D. Wood
Staff Writer

In an effort to safeguard the health of financially eligible families, the Women, Infant and Children Center provides supplemental food items, nutrition education and makes referrals to various health services when parents need a helping hand.

The WIC program provides items such as milk, cheese, beans, peas, eggs, cereal and peanut butter to supplement those with diets that require more nutrition, such as pregnant mothers and young children.

Currently, Fort Riley has more than 1,500 people participating in the WIC program. At times, the program has supported up to 1,900 people, said Ellen Hunley, health service worker at the WIC office located on Fort Riley.

Eligibility is based on family size and income. According to Hunley, some officers and enlisted soldiers up to E-6 have used the program.

The WIC program is also military friendly. It can be transferred



from state to state and even out of the country.

"Families don't have to stop and then re-apply for the program if they move to a new post. All they have to do is give us a call, and we will get them the paperwork to transfer just about anywhere they might go," said Hunley.

Although they have offices on post, Hunley stressed WIC is not associated with the military.

"This is a federally funded, state run program which the com-

manding general has allowed to have an office on post because of its ability to help soldiers and their families," said Hunley. "It's not an entitlement through the military, and soldiers should not expect to get it just because they are in the Army."

As part of the WIC mission to support pregnant mothers and young children, WIC will be taking part in World Breast-feeding Week, tomorrow through Aug. 7. During the week, there will be displays and educational resources available to the public at the WIC office. Bags with information and gifts for program participants will also be handed out on voucher days, said Jackie Wingerd, registered dietitian for the State of Kansas.

To apply for the program, soldiers or spouses should contact the WIC office located in Soldier and Family Support Services, building 7264, or call 239-5730. Hunley said applicants will need to gather information, including household income, proof of residency and, if pregnant, lab work from the hospital.



Crista Stowe executes a back hand spring while being spotted by instructor Babette Ingal. The Back Hand Spring Clinic is a week-long class held at the Teen Center. Students in the class strive for strength and mobility to accomplish a full back hand spring.

Deadline approaching for 2004 - 2005 school year stabilization

By Ryan D. Wood
Staff Writer

Moving from place to place around the world is part of the military life. For those who signed up, it was an expected, if not exciting, part of the military experience. For members of their family, it can be a trial, especially when school and graduation collide with another permanent change of station.

According to Kay Forman, School Liaison Officer, stabilizing Army fami-

lies with high school seniors was among the top recommendations of an Army Education Summit held in July 2000. Taking the recommendations formulated during the summit, senior Army leadership implemented the High School Stabilization Plan to ease school transitions and also created the school liaison officer position.

The plan allows soldiers to submit requests for post stabilization no later than 12 months prior to the beginning of the senior school year, said Forman.

Requests for stabilization during the school year beginning in August 2004 and graduating in May 2005 must be submitted by Aug. 18.

According to Forman, soldiers may initiate a request for stabilization by submitting a DA Form 4187, listing the family member's name and social security number. The family member must be enrolled in the Defense Eligibility and Enrollment Reporting System.

A letter from the student's high school must also be submitted, which states when the student is projected to graduate. This letter can be requested from local schools by contacting the Junction City High School counseling office, 238-

3187, or Manhattan, High School, 587-2100.

Enlisted soldiers must also list any scheduled training, such as schooling or temporary duty enroute, on the DA Form 4187.

Officers with scheduled training should contact their branch assignment officer to reschedule the training.

For more information on the stabilization program, soldiers should contact their unit personnel assistance center, their assignment branch or the school liaison officer, 239-1558.

Stabilization deadline
Aug. 18 for May 2005
graduation dates.

Teen Center offers variety of activities throughout year

By Jamie Bender
Staff writer

The Fort Riley Teen Center is not just a place for teens to go after school during the fall and winter months. The center offers weekly summer camps and field trips as well.

The Teen Center benefits the youth of Fort Riley in a variety of ways, said Jill O'Sullivan, Teen Center director.

"First and foremost, it gives them a safe-haven to hang out with their friends during the day and evening to keep them from being harmed or getting into trouble," said O'Sullivan.

The center offers a variety of activities for teens during the summer, ranging from trips to

amusement parks to swimming, bowling, dances, sports and family potlucks.

"They can also participate in 4-H programs, photography, cooking, sewing and crafts," said O'Sullivan. "They can join our Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Keystone Club or TORCH Club, which are clubs that enhance teens development and provide service to their communities. Many of our programs help the teens to develop good leadership skills, learn to be more responsible and develop into good citizens — all while having a good time."

The teen center has many areas within the building that teens may use.

"We have a music lab, computer lab, craft room, game room, a

full gymnasium, full kitchen and a TV and video room," said O'Sullivan.



Chris Jackson-Smith, 12, takes aim at a pool ball at the Fort Riley Teen Center as Bria Dansby, 10, and Victoria Brock, 14, look on.

The Teen Center staff is dedicated to the youth of the Fort Riley community, said O'Sullivan.

"It takes special people to work with teens, and all of our staff love working here and interacting with the teens," she said. "Many of the kids call some of the staff Mom or Grandma."

The activities at the center and use of the Teen Center are free, after the \$15 registration fee. For more information, call the center, 239-9227.

Career soldiers must chose retirement pay plan early

Soldiers must choose a retirement plan long before time for them to retire.

Soldiers with DEIMS dates after Aug. 1, 1986, who are eligible under current Service regulations to serve continuously to 20 years, must choose between the High-3 and the CSB/REDUX retired pay plans between their 14 and a half and 15th year of active duty, although retirement won't occur until the soldier has completed 20 years of service. The 14 and a half to 15 years of active duty is calculated from the soldier's basic active service date (BASD) Not the DEIMS date.

Members who elect CSB/REDUX are entitled to a \$30,000 career status bonus (CSB) payable at their 15th year of active duty. The CSB may be paid in a lump sum or a series of up to five annual payments. In no case will an election become effective before a member's 15th year of active duty. CSB/REDUX retired pay will always lag behind High-3 retired pay, so wise investment of the CSB by members who elect CSB/REDUX is necessary to lessen or possibly eliminate that gap.

All servicemembers who are between their 14 and a half and

15th year of active duty should contact the Retirement Services Office for an appointment to choose between retired pay plans. The Retirement Services Office is

located in building 210, 239-3320 or 239-3667. For more information concerning CSB/REDUX, go to www.odcsper.army.mil/Retirement

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2 x 2"
Black Only
Rye Cntr/7-29 & 8-1, 7-30

KANSAS PRESS
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Rad Tech/7-29 & 8-1, 7-30

MILITARY OUTLET
2 x 5"
Black Only
support

HOLM AUTOMOTIVE
3 x 4"
Black Only
3x4, HOLM AUTO AUGUST RUNNING

BRITTS GARDEN ACRES
1 x 3"
Black Only
homegrown produce



ITR

The Information, Ticketing and Registration office is located in building 6918 (across from the PX). The ITR hours of operation are Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. and the office is closed on federal holidays. For further information, call ITR (785) 239-5614 or 239-4415.

Check out the Department of the Army Leisure Travel website at www.ofdutytravel.com for more great deals on travel.

ITR services and discount attractions tickets available to active duty military, retirees, National Guard, reservists, Department of the Army civilians and family members.

Road Race Series

The Topeka Half-Mile National and Formula USA National Road Race Series are coming to Heartland Park Topeka Aug. 9 and 10. Advance military discounted tickets are available through ITR.

Carnival Cruise Lines

Carnival Cruise Lines has introduced a new children's dining program that provides kids with delicious meals with their fellow young cruisers in the ships' casual poolside restaurants while parents enjoy a night to themselves. Dinners take place 6 - 7 p.m., after which children are welcome to partake in regularly scheduled "Camp Carnival" activities until 10 p.m.

While most children will dine with their parents in the main dining rooms, this new program provides a wonderful opportunity for kids to enjoy a delicious meal with the youth staff and other children on board, while offering parents a leisurely and romantic dinner by themselves. Camp Carnival activities are geared toward children ages 2-15 who enjoy such amenities as indoor and outdoor play areas, computer labs, arts and crafts centers, video game rooms, a new EduCruise science and geography program and more.

California Adventure

Guests can experience the

action of the X Games up close and personal at Disney's California Adventure park now through Aug. 10. Based on sports featured annually in ESPN's X Games, this summer's X Games Experience showcases the fast-paced skills of top athletes in Moto-X, skateboarding, in-line skating and bike Xhibitions throughout the theme park.

Kansas City Chiefs

Experience the excitement of NFL football with the Kansas City Chiefs. Limited tickets available through ITR. Tickets are \$60 without transportation and \$80 with transportation. Grab some friends and tailgate at Arrowhead

stadium. Support your favorite team. The home game schedule includes: Aug. 9 - San Francisco 49ers, Aug. 16 - Minnesota Vikings, Sept. 7 - San Diego Chargers, Sept. 14 - Pittsburgh Steelers, Oct. 5 - Denver Broncos, Oct. 26 - Buffalo Bills, Nov. 9 - Cleveland Browns, Nov. 23 - Oakland Raiders, Dec. 14 - Detroit Lions, and Dec. 28 - Chicago Bears.

Military Salutes

Many theme parks, regional attractions and vacation destinations will salute the military with free admissions and deep discounts through late fall and early winter.

Stop by ITR for additional information and low rates for hotels near those attractions.

Oceans of Fun

Guests of Oceans of Fun will be surrounded by the tropical excitement of the new Paradise Falls. Paradise Falls brings increased playability to the 60-acre water park located in Kansas City, Mo.

You won't be able to miss the 1,000-gallon bucket located at the top of the water playhouse. Paradise Falls in overflowing with fun for children of all ages and is sure to keep everyone busy and soaking wet for hours.

Before leaving town, protect your home

Staff Reports

When going on vacation, deployment or on any trip that will take you away from your post quarters, remember that Fort Riley personnel are ready to take care of your residence while you are away. The Military Police and installation housing office are prepared to protect and repair your home when needed, if you follow the correct procedures.

The Military Police House Watch program, which ensures daily, after hours physical checks of unoccupied quarters as a crime prevention effort, is available to all on post housing residents. All it takes is a visit to building 221, and Military Police will periodically check the security of quarters in a resident's absence.

To begin the service, fill it out a house watch form. The form can be found through a link on the housing web page, <http://www.riley.army.mil/Services/For/Housing.asp>. Bring the completed form to the Physical Security Office or the Military Police Station, a few days before you depart. The Physical Security Office is located in building 221 on Main Post inside the Military Police station.

Spec. Derek Baxter, military policeman, 523rd Military Police Detachment, helps track current

house watches. He inputs residences into a computer and then gives printouts of current house watches to the MP on patrol for each area.

"Officers check homes at least two times every 24 hours," Baxter said. "The average number of house watches per patrol area is around 12 at this time."

Officers check each residence for open doors, windows, garages and any other kind of entry point into a home, Baxter said. They also look for vehicles or people at the residence that are not suppose to be there. "When filling out a House Watch form, residents list individuals who can be at the residence while they are gone. They also list vehicles that may be parked there, lights left on or pets that are left at home," Baxter said. "If anyone or anything not on the form is at the residence, the MPs will check it out."

Baxter said it is very important for residents to leave a point of contact for the MPs to call in case

anything does occur at the residence. "The POC is the first person the patrolman calls if anything is suspicious or wrong," Baxter said. "Most important is that the POC knows how to get in touch with the resident if needed."

It does not matter how far ahead someone signs up for the House Watch program, Baxter said. "It is just very important that they fill out the form and leave a POC."

For additional information on House Watch, call 239-6344 or 239-6343 during duty hours or call 239-MPMP (6767) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In addition to notifying House Watch of your time away from home, you must report absences from quarters of seven days or more to the Housing Facilities Section, as stated in the Fort Riley Housing Resident Policy Handbook. This will ensure proper action may be taken in case an emergency. Residents are also required to have someone watching their quarters for them. The resident must let Housing know

who that person is.

The Housing Resident Policy Handbook stresses that absence from quarters does not relieve occupants of their responsibilities for the interior and exterior of the quarters. Lawns must still be mowed, sidewalks shoveled, etc. The house watcher appointed by the resident must make daily inspections so that any facility problems are detected and reported for repair immediately. Damage from unreported problems such as water leaks, lack of heat, etc., will result in the assessment of charges to the resident.

To report an absence from your quarters to the Housing office, fill out the Extended Absence From Quarters form, which may be found on the Housing web page, and obtain the required signatures. An absence of over thirty days requires the signatures of your house watcher and your company commander. Then, bring the completed form to the first floor of the Housing office, building 45, for approval.

Taking the appropriate measures to protect your home before you leave will ensure its well being upon your return.

Post releases annual water consumer confidence report

Fort Riley's Directorate of Environment and Safety has prepared Fort Riley's Annual Consumer Confidence Report. "Fort Riley is committed to providing a safe and reliable supply of high-quality drinking water. Fort Riley's drinking water met or surpassed all federal and state drinking water regulations in 2002 and continues to do so," said Debra Porter, DES drinking water program coordinator. "Fort Riley has prepared an annual Consumer Confidence Report which is required by the Safe Drinking Water Act."

The CCR is posted on the Internet at www.riley.army.mil. "From the Fort Riley Homepage, follow the link to Services, Fort Riley Services and then to the Environment page, which will have a link labeled "Quality of Tap Water Report," Porter said.

The CCR provides information on the type and name of the water source; information on contaminants, including a mandatory monitoring list; information on detected regulated and/or unregulated contaminants; any violations associated with monitoring and reporting and additional health information for immuno-compromised persons.

The CCR will be updated annually. Information about CCRs can be obtained from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 1-800-426-4791. For additional information about Fort Riley's CCR, consumers can contact Porter at DES, 239-2630.

Head Start participants should register soon

Open registration for Geary County Head Start is being held Monday through Friday, 9 - 11 a.m. and 1:30 - 3 p.m. at 1811 Elmdale Avenue, Junction City.

Acceptance is based on income guidelines, but special circumstances can be considered. This is a federally funded program, so there is no cost to those who qualify. Children must be 3 or 4 years of age by Aug. 31 in order to enroll for the coming school year. Curriculum is play-based and focuses on Kindergarten readiness.

When registering, bring proof of family income (leave and earning statements), and a W-2 form or income tax information. Classes are held in Junction City and Fort Riley.

Call 238-1042 for more information.

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
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Dates: 7-29 & 8-1, 7/30

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Allied: 7-29 & 8-1, 7/30

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2 x 5.5"
Black Only
August times

PARAMOUNT-ARMED FORCES
3 x 10.5"
Black Only
#368758/Tomb Raider (Now play.)

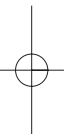


Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

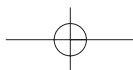


USD 475
12.12 x 21.25"

BLUE DOUBLE TRUCK USD 475



Cyan Magenta Yellow Black



IACH Briefs

Breast-feeding Class

The Women and Infant Care Center of Irwin Army Community Hospital offers free classes on breast-feeding babies on the third Wednesday of each month. A dietitian will address the nutritional requirements for breast-feeding moms and a lactation educator will talk about the advantages of breast-feeding and how to prepare for successful nursing. Information on breast-feeding techniques, troubleshooting advice and where to find support will also be offered. Classes are held in the Obstetrics classroom on the third floor of IACH, 1 - 2:30 p.m. Everyone is invited and walk-ins are welcome. For more information, call Maj. Susanna Itara at 239-7434.

Cancer Support

The Fort Riley Cancer Support Group meeting will be Wednesday, 6 p.m., at Irwin Army Community Hospital, on the first floor, in the patient waiting area of the Combined Surgery Clinic. Participants are asked to bring any news articles pertaining to their cancer diagnosis.

Military service members, their family members and Department of Army Civilians are welcome to attend. Participation is encouraged for persons who were recently diagnosed with cancer, family and friends of persons with cancer and cancer survivors.

Car Seat Inspections

Child car seat inspections are available through Irwin Army Community Hospital's Community Health Nursing. Assistance with correct placement and positioning of your child's car seat and information are part of the inspection. Active duty uniformed soldiers, their families, retired military and Department of Defense civilians are eligible for this service. There is no fee.

Car Seat Inspection appointments are available Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Inspections will take place in the IACH parking area. To schedule a car seat inspection, call Community Health Nursing, 239-7323.

Tobacco Cessation Classes

Community Health Nursing of Irwin Army Community Hospital offers free Tobacco Cessation classes. This is a four-week program, which meets once a week and is run by trained medical professionals. Participants may choose to quit smoking without medication or healthcare providers may prescribe Zyban. Military servicemembers, their families and DoD civilians are eligible to participate. To register, call Community Health Nursing at 239-7323.

Last surviving D-Day chaplain remembers Omaha Beach landing, Normandy invasion

By Michael Watson
Staff writer

On the Sunday before D-Day, June 6, 1944, retired Air Force chaplain Col. George Russell Barber conducted 11 religious services on 11 different ships.

The soldiers from those ships were given a mission to storm Omaha Beach as an Army chaplain at the time, and he said he wanted the American boys to know they were going into battle with God on their side.

Because his job was to provide spiritual comfort and moral support to the soldiers, he landed on the beach not with a weapon, but with a Bible. He was one of only four chaplains during the invasion.

Barber shared his memories from the invasion at the interfaith worship service and a memory tent discussion during the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics dedication on July 20.

"As we prepared for the invasion, I gave each of the soldiers a Gideon Bible, because there are no atheists in the foxhole," he said. "The soldiers were worried, but we all knew we had a job to do. I told them that they should place their trust in God and his reward."

After saying a prayer, the sol-

diers loaded the Higgins boats wearing their packs and carrying their rifles. Barber said he knew many men would die during the invasion, and he didn't know if he'd be one of them.

But he did survive, and today he is the last surviving chaplain who landed on Omaha Beach that day.

Now in his late-eighties, the chaplain still remembers the Normandy invasion, holding wounded and dying soldiers in his arms, telling them to believe in God's plan.

After the horrific first day, he said there were 1,531 bodies scattered along the beach.

Saying prayers for both the wounded and the dead, Barber said he had seen enough bloodshed on June 6, 1944 to know that "war is hell, and war is ugly." Almost six decades later, he still remembers the prayer he said to his fallen comrades.

Omaha Beach was not the only place where Barber was needed for spiritual guidance. When the American troops overcame the defenses on Omaha Beach, they continued to Paris and then to Germany. At the Battle of the Bulge, the German forces made another push to win the war. While the efforts failed, more American soldiers lost their lives, and Barber was there ministering

to the dead and dying.

Barber began his military career in October 1941, just before the bombing of Pearl Harbor, with the 11th Horse Cavalry. He was the youngest chaplain on active duty in all branches of the military. When it was decided that tanks would replace the horse cavalry, he helped build tank divisions with General George Patton.

Barber retired from the military in 1969, but he has never really retired as chaplain. He continues to speak about humanitarian efforts and to share his memories at events like the interfaith worship service at the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics dedication, where Barber delivered a sermon titled "The Truth Shall Make You Free."

Chap. (Maj.) Bob Owen, a student in the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., said he was honored to recognize Barber and the other Word War II veterans who attended the service, by having all the veterans at the service stand up for a standing ovation.

"To recognize our veterans is a joy and a duty beyond the scope of words," he said. "Our generations have benefited from your sacrifices during the dark days of war. You World War II veterans fought in a way that younger generations cannot comprehend. By this selfless service so many years ago, you are still serving today, thank you."

Barber had a smile on his face from ear to ear as he and his fellow veterans received the ovation for their service. The sprightly chaplain even rose from his wheelchair, while flashing peace signs

with both of his hands.

After the service, Barber said, "I'm proud that I have gotten the chance to serve my country. It is especially important today that we show our patriotism. I only hope that people will not have to go to war in the future. War is hell. War is ugly."



Retired Air Force Chaplain Col. George Russell Barber

Barlow Theater

Tonight:

7 p.m.
Alex and Emma
(PG-13)

Saturday:

7 p.m.
The Hulk
(PG-13)

Sunday:

7 p.m.
Justin to Kelly
(PG)

Thursday:

7 p.m.
The Hulk
(PG-13)

Ticket prices:
Adults - \$3
Children - \$1.50

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black



Cyan Magenta Yellow Black



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Fort Riley Post

August 1, 2003

BRIGGS-JEEP NISSAN
6 x 21.25"
Black Only
briggs PO #157081

